9 June 2023

**DECISION**

**GREYHOUND RACING VICTORIA**

**and**

**DARREN PETERSEN**

**Date of hearing:** 6 June 2023

**Panel:** Judge Kathryn Kings (Acting Deputy Chairperson) and Ms Amanda Dickens.

**Appearances:** Mr Anthony Pearce appeared on behalf of the Stewards.

Mr Darren Petersen represented herself.

**Charge:** Greyhounds Australasia Rule (“GAR”) 141(1) states:

(1) The owner, trainer or other person in charge of a greyhound:

(a) nominated to compete in an Event;

(b) presented for a satisfactory trial or such other trial as provided for by the Rules; or

(c) presented for any test or examination for the purpose of a stand-down period being varied or revoked,

must present the greyhound free of any prohibited substance.

**Particulars of charge:** 1.You are, and were at all relevant times, a trainer licensed by Greyhound Racing Victoria and a person bound by the Greyhounds Australasia Rules.

2. You were, at all relevant times, the trainer of the greyhound *“Maximum Jane”.*

3. *“Maximum Jane”* was nominated to compete in Race 1, ELITE COLLARS & LEADS (250+ RANK), Maiden, conducted by the Shepparton Greyhound Racing Club at Shepparton on 29 September 2022 (**the Event**).

4. On 29 September 2022, you presented *“Maximum Jane”* at the Event not free of any prohibited substance, given that:

* 1. A pre-race sample of urine was taken from “*Maximum Jane”* upon arrival at the Event (**the Sample**);
	2. Procaine was detected in the Sample.

**Plea:** Guilty

**DECISION**

Mr Darren Petersen, you have pleaded guilty to breaching Greyhounds Australasia Rule (“GAR”) 141(1).

You are a registered greyhound owner and trainer of the greyhound “Maximum Jane”. Maximum Jane was nominated to compete in Race 1 at Shepparton on 29 September 2022.

A pre-race swab revealed the presence of procaine in the urine of the greyhound. Procaine is a short-lived local anaesthetic which can produce a pain free state and has the capacity to be performance enhancing.

You have pleaded guilty to breaching GAR 141(1) on account that you presented Maximum Jane for an event while not free of a prohibited substance.

Dr Steven Karamatic, Chief Veterinarian at Greyhound Racing Victoria (“GRV”) provided a report dated 14 December 2022 which confirmed procaine is a prohibited substance as defined by the GARs. He reported that procaine is capable of affecting the condition or performance of a greyhound by inducing an artificial pain free state. Further, that unfit for human consumption meat is a likely explanation for the detection of procaine in this sample, having been sourced from a pet food shop in Seymour (or Derrimut) as outlined in a Swab Irregularity Report and Statement of Mr Sutton. The evidence was that the pet food meat was fed at least until the night prior to the sample.

The cause of the positive swab was the feeding of knackery meat to the greyhound. GRV has previously issued warnings to trainers about the use of knackery meat.

You have held a trainer’s licence since 1997. You have informed us that your sole source of income is derived from greyhound racing and that you are now feeding your dogs kangaroo meat.

In imposing a penalty, we take into account your guilty plea, your co-operation with this investigation and the importance of specific and general deterrence. We also take into account the importance of keeping a level playing field by having a drug free industry. We further take into consideration recent penalties in like matters and your relatively good record, having one prior conviction in 2015.

In all the circumstances, we impose a penalty of three months suspension which is wholly suspended for 24 months pending no further breach of the Rules of greyhound racing related to prohibited substances in that time. We also impose a fine of $2,000, with $1,000 suspended for a period of 24 months pending no further breach of those Rules.

Additionally, Maximum Jane is disqualified from Race 1 at Shepparton on 29 September 2022 and the finishing order is amended accordingly.

Mark Howard

Registrar, Victorian Racing Tribunal